

Brooks E. Kleber Memorial Reading in Military History

“Brothers at War: The Unending Conflict in Korea”

Dr. Sheila Miyoshi Jager

Author

The Armistice Agreement of March 1953 ended the Korean War, but the discord between the North and South remains unresolved. The lack of a formal peace treaty at the end of the war led to numerous military, political, and economic tensions on both sides. In light of events such as the North Korean raid on the presidential Blue House in Seoul in 1968, its attack on present-day Myanmar in 1983, naval conflicts along the Yellow Sea in the early 2000s, nuclear threats and trade suspension, the endurance of the division between North and South Korea is clear. American, Chinese, and Russian competition for both control within the Korean Peninsula and a hand in decisions concerning aid exacerbate the divide further. For example, the U.S. accommodated the South Korean regime after the war but more recently attempted to aid North Korea in exchange for weapons concessions since the 1990s. North Korean nuclear threats in particular led to U.S. economic assistance, which Dr. Sheila Miyoshi Jager argues North Korea depends on for survival. Jager is the author of the 2013 book, *Brothers at War: The Unending Conflict in Korea*, listed as one of three Best Books of 2013 on Asia and the Pacific in *Foreign Affairs*, and will focus her upcoming lecture at the United States Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) on the continuing Korean divide. The book devotes a large space to the Korean War itself and brings readers through its consequences to the present. Jager discusses the power motivations of the U.S. and China to enter the war, and how their roles, among other nations, impact current the division on the peninsula. Jager’s predictions about the end of the Korean conflict are offered as well.

Dr. Sheila Miyoshi Jager is a Professor of East Asian Studies at Oberlin College. Jager’s authorial focus is contemporary Korean politics and history, as shown in her previous publications, *Narratives of Nation Building in Korea: A Genealogy of Patriotism* (2003) on the effects of gendered tropes on Korean modernity, and *Ruptured Histories: War, Memory and the Post-Cold War in Asia* (2007) about the major reassessment East Asian states’ underwent following the end of the Cold War. Jager received her PhD from the University of Chicago, and now directs the East Asian program at Oberlin College in addition to teaching. Dr. Sheila Miyoshi Jager resides with her husband and children in Ohio.

DATE: Thursday, August 6, 2015

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 PM and the talk begins at 7:15 PM. The question period concludes around 8:30 PM.

PLACE: USAHEC, Visitor and Education Center, Multi-Purpose Room

For updates and any last minute changes in meeting times and places, please check the USAHEC homepage: www.USAHEC.org or call the Information Desk: (717) 245-3972.